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CALGARY, JULY 19, 1918

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THE 4th OF JULY DECLARATION OF PRESIDENT WILSON RESPECTING THE REIGN OF LAW AMONG NATIONS.

"What we seek is the reign of law, based on the consent of the governed and sustained by the organized opinion of mankind." These are the ends for which the associated peoples of the world are fighting and which must be conceded them before there can be peace:

"1. The destruction of every arbitrary power anywhere that can separately, secretly and of its single choice disturb the peace of the world, or, if it can not be presently destroyed, at the least its reduction to virtual impotence

"2. The settlement of every question, whether of territory, of sovereignty, of economic arrangement or of political relationship upon the basis of the free acceptance of that settlement by the peoples immediately concerned, and not upon the basis of the material interest or advantage of any other nation or people which may desire a different settlement for the sake of its own exterior influence or mastery.

"3. The consent of all nations to be governed in their conduct toward each other by the same principles of honor, and of respect for the common law of civilized society that govern the individual citizens of all modern states in their relations with one another; to the end that all promises and covenants may be sacredly observed, no private plots or conspiracies hatched, no selfish injuries wrought with impunity and a mutual trust established upon the handsome foundation of a mutual respect for right."

THE 5th OF JULY DECLARATION OF OTTAWA BY ORDER-IN-COUN- CIL.

At the Government House, Ottawa.

Present His Excellency the Governor-in-Council:

Whereas, in the case of one Norman Earl Lewis, the Supreme Court of the Province of Alberta, appellate division, decided on the 20th day of June that the order-in-council of the 20th of April, 1918, P. C. 919, have not the force of law and that consequently all exemptions cancelled by the order-in-council of the same day, P. C. 952, remain in full force and effect.

And, whereas, the acting minister of militia and defense represents that military conditions make it imperatively necessary that the principle of this judgment should not be permitted to have effect, and that it is impossible to suspend the operation of the order-in-council pending an appeal if the exigencies of the military situation are to be met.

Therefore, His Excellency the Governor-General, on recommendation of the acting-prime minister, is pleased to order and direct and doth hereby order and direct, that men whose exemptions were cancelled pursuant to the provisions of the orders-in-council of 20th April, 1918, above referred to, be dealt with in all respects as provided for by the said order-in-council, notwithstanding the judgment, or any order that may be made by any court, and that instructions be sent accordingly to the general and other officers commanding military districts in Canada.

THE PRINCIPLE APPLIED.

President Wilson's position, with respect to the "reign of law," holds good not only between one nation and another, but also between one section or faction and another in a community. Expediency is no excuse for riding rough shod over civil rights in a community, any more than expediency is accepted by the nations of the world from Germany as her excuse for crushing Belgium. In other words, the spirit of justice and respect for "organized public opinion" must be in the heart of a nation that seeks justice and respect for "organized public opinion" from other nations.



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CURRENT HISTORY

Guess No. 1.

I am going to take a guess on the war. I do not know anything about it. I know nothing of military tactics, but just the same my chances are nearly as good of making a successful guess as any of the so-called military experts. So far we have not been able to determine precisely what is in another man's mind, and Germany may have something up her sleeve, of which we know nothing, and our friend, Mr. Foch, may have several important communications to make to Fritz, in a way of which nobody dreams, but here goes for a guess.

The Germans will make one more big smash on the Western front. I don't know where it will be made, but let us leave that indefinite. They will gain considerable ground at a tremendous cost, but will not reach any great objectives. The fight will then slowly die down in the West, and the Germans will play a strictly defensive game on that front, while they once more turn their attention towards the East. Four courses are open to them here. They may concentrate upon Italy. That does not look reasonable, because in that case the Allies have the advantage of interior lines, and it is doubtful if much could be gained. They may go on licking some more Russians, thus trying to establish themselves throughout Russia, as far as the Ural Mountains. That looks a bit uncertain, so that the possibilities narrow down to an attack upon the Balkan front, or the aiding of Turkey in Mesopotamia. The Germans will try to fight next year's war defensively in the West, while carrying out a Mesopotamian campaign, or a Balkan one, and I take it that Foch is anticipating this, and for that reason has opened the ball in the Balkans. There is nothing like having a guess anyway.

Please Page Mr. Esler.

Writing of war, reminds us of Esler, Rev. Alex. Esler has a one-cylinder mind. He thinks only of one thing. Never by any possibility does he get another thought through his cranium. If it rains (which it doesn't), the Pope is to blame for it. Likewise, if it is dry weather, it is up to the Pope. A strike is started by the Pope, also it is ended by his holiness, for his own purpose, and to accomplish his own evil designs. Everything works to the glory of the head of the Catholic church. If Germany wins, it's the pope's gain; if the Allies win, why there again is the Pope. If Chief Justice Harvey delivers a decision, no doubt in the mind of Rev. Esler, the Pope comes into it somehow. If an election is fought, it is for the Pope. The head of King Charles, in the immortal novel of Mr. Dickens, is no more ubiquitous

than the "Pope in the mind of Mr. Esler. To that Rev. gentleman, his holiness is the perpetual, perennial and eternal symbol of everything that is wrong and for nothing that is right.

But, if the Pope is able to make gains for himself, and out of so many of the difficult things, I have begun to figure out that he cuts some ice. In the old days when I went to Sunday school, they told us that everything worked together for good for those who loved the Lord, and, if according to Esler, everything works out for the Pope's advantage, I figure it out that he's on the Lord's side, and Rev. Esler should get wise and not buck him so strongly. Prior to the announcements of Rev. Esler, regarding the Pope, I had not given that gentleman a great deal of consideration. I figured it out that he was the head of a great church, the greatest single denomination in Christendom. I knew that he did not get this job by inheritance, and that he would have to be some boy before they would hand it to him, but when Rev. Esler came along and tells us that the Pope has his finger in everything, from the making of war and peace, to the slant of the sun's rays in the Province of Alberta, I said to myself, here's to Pope Benedict the what's his number, he's some boy and if ever he should happen to be hard up, I'll share up my last crust and my last bottle of two per cent. with him.

Evils of Bigotry.

This business of crossing a religious creek, in celebration of some victory gained over another religion, and that a religious faith followed by two fifths of the Canadian people, is a pack of darned nonsense. Wouldn't we laugh our fool heads off if the Jews started on a parade to celebrate the time they put it over the Egyptians in the Red Sea trick, or the Greeks started in to celebrate that Hellespont crossing. Yet people have been crossing rivers from that day to this, and if every denomination, class, clan, tribe or outfit started off with an orange sash parade, to celebrate every river they have crossed, we would be up to the neck in celebrations, and it would rain every day. The trouble is these people who make such a fuss about making a religious victory, never worry about the economic bondage they are under. In fact, they are willing to parade their religious bigotry, with the very idea of perpetuating the economic dominance of their own particular class.

A More Worthy Celebration.

Anyway, why not celebrate the crossing of the Marne, instead of the crossing of the Boyne. Rev. Esler can remember clearly a centuries' old event, in which

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Protestantism achieved a victory at the crossing of the Boyne, but he is silent about the time in which the Catholic armies of France, aided by the remnant of the Belgian army, and a little bunch of English contemptibles, flung themselves against the hordes of Protestant Germany, and they achieved a real victory. Religion had nothing to do with it, Germany might just as well have been Catholic, Catholic France might just as well have been Protestant, England might have been Mohammedan. The cleavage was national, not religious. As the quarrel of to-day has very little to do with any religion, why should Rev. Esler find the 17th century such a congenial place to live in.

Where is the Censor.

But there is a more serious side to this question—the government has a censorship. The censorship is supposed to restrict us in the utterances of criticisms, which might injure the cause of the Allies, yet here is a man who starts to set religion against religion, within our own country, and among our own Allies. Why is it that someone in authority does not take Rev. Esler out behind the barn and tell him to shut up? We have one guess—nobody pays any attention to what he says, and these few cursory remarks are just so much waste paper. Let it go at that.

Be happy, merry gentlemen.
Let nothing you dismay,
Let dogs delight to bark and bite,
Until next Christmas day.

What's in a Name.

A Russian with an unpronounceable name was up before the court a few days ago, and Mr. Justice Stuart delivered a judgment, which at any other time would have received more attention. He pointed out that even in these stirring times the court had to decide a question with some regard to the laws of Evidence. He found it impossible to condemn a man merely because someone called him a red guard, or a socialist, or a Bolsheviki, or a roughneck, and so the previous judgment against the man was dismissed. It is a good thing in more ways than one, that we have in our

judges men who hang very closely to the ideals of Justice, which have given British laws their stability—a stability founded on elements of truth that are imperishable.

Better Counsels Prevail.

Common sense at the last minute saved trouble in Calgary last week. The Law clashed with what was termed Military necessity. "Military Necessity" was the defence the Kaiser made for the invasion of Belgium. The whole incident was deplorable and regrettable, and the only bright ray in the whole incident was that common sense at the last minute avoided a clash, which would have been serious in the extreme. Even yet the difficulty is not entirely overcome. Let us pray—pray for the establishment of law—not lawlessness, in the Province of Alberta.

The Professional Punster.

I was sitting in Bert Dick's hotel, the Alexandra, a few days ago, winding up one of Dick's 40c. lunches, on a piece of raisin pie, when Farquhar dropped in. Sam looked at me for a minute, and said, "No need for you to eat raisin pie, you are always full of current events." Blow that man Farquhar.

—THE WANDERER.
* * *

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

It is said that there was an agreement between the two parties, before the Union Government was formed, that the tariff would be left in abeyance during the duration of the war. It is hard to believe that any group of men would enter into an arrangement whereby the fiscal policy of the country would be left in abeyance for an indefinite period of time. Personally, I cannot conceive of such a thing. It is also stated that the Western members were pledged to support the Government through thick and thin. Well, so far as I am concerned, personally, there is no arrangement, no agreement, no understanding, either written, spoken, or implied of that nature. And I know of other Western members who are in exactly the same position.—J. A. Maharg M.P.

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ALBERTA SUPREME COURT DECIDES TO STICK.

That a decision of far-reaching import was about to be delivered was evident from the crowd that attended the sitting of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court held in Calgary last Friday afternoon. Anxious expectancy was written on the faces of those waiting the appearance of the judges, but it must not be supposed that the gravity of the situation dulled the sense of humor of the audience. The usual number of irrepressibles were there with facetious remarks and discussion on the most effective means of surrounding Victoria Barracks and forcing the defenders to an ignominious surrender. One individual was heard to enquire anxiously if in the event of being called out by the sheriff to assist in carrying out the orders of the court, he would have an opportunity to put on his "garden duds," or if he would be compelled to tackle the barbed wire entanglements in his "Sunday best" with stiff collar and Derby hat.

Serious Issues Involved.

The arrival of the judges, however, dispelled this note of levity, and the audience settled down to hear the judgment of the court. James Muir, K.C., acting for the Minister of Justice, read a message which he had just received from Ottawa, but which, in the opinion of Chief Justice Harvey, did not offer any solution to the difficulty, but rather widened the breach by its emphatic refusal to recognize the authority of the court. The Chief Justice then read the judgment of the court, and many in the audience were thrilled by the quiet determination of the judges and their firm resolve to perform the function which their oath of office involved.

Judgment—Epoch-making Document.

"This court is now confronted by a situation which is most astounding, arising, as it does, in this twentieth century.

A writ of attachment against Lieut.-Col. Moore has been granted, and a writ issued, and the sheriff has been met by armed military resistance in his effort to execute the writ. Counsel for the military authorities of Canada has appeared before us and stated that Lieut.-Col. Moore has disobeyed the orders of the court, and is prepared to use force to resist arrest under the direct orders of the highest military officer in Canada, and it appears that these orders have been issued with the approval of the Executive Government of Canada. This seems to me that the military authorities and the Executive Government of Canada have set at defiance the highest court in this Province."

Stands Firm on Matter of Principle.

"There can be only one answer to the question which way will this court act?

It will continue to perform its duties as it sees them, and will endeavor, in so far as lies in its power, to furnish protection to persons who apply to it to be permitted to exercise their legal rights."

Orders-in-Council Both Invalid.

The Chief Justice then traced the issues leading up to the present situation, and said that inasmuch as the finding of the court in re Lewis case held the order-in-council cancelling exemptions to be invalid, the second order-in-council purporting to annul the judgment of the Alberta Supreme Court in this matter must also be considered invalid until the decision was reversed by the Supreme Court of Canada.

Military Authorities Obdurate.

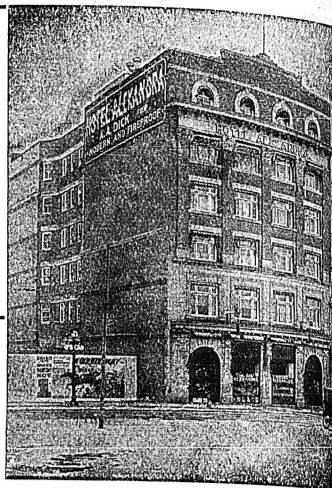
In spite of the court's efforts to reach a compromise, no promise could be elicited from the military authorities that the men involved in the Habeas Corpus proceedings would not be sent out of the province until after the sitting of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Major Carson, the military representative, although evidently anxious to avoid a clash between the military authorities and the court, did not impress one as possessing the necessary initiative to act in a crisis. To the lay observer, it seemed a simple matter to hold the twenty or so men involved for two weeks, as surely when instructions come from Ottawa for another draft no specific names are mentioned. The mailed fist seemed to be uppermost in the Major's mind and it did not seem to occur to him that a little bit of grit and imagination might save the situation.

Military Eventually Capitulate.

However, Chief Justice Harvey agreed to stay issuance of the order until noon next day, and before that time Col. McDonald had given his assurance to the court that the men involved would not be removed from the Province until the judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada was rendered. A very serious condition of affairs was thus averted, and one of the most momentous issues raised in the history of this Province was settled and a victory gained by the Civil Court over arbitrary authority which was prepared to wipe out at one stroke of the pen the principle underlying our common law established and recognized for several hundreds of years.

—WAYFARER.



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JUSTICE IN ALBERTA

Since our last issue Alberta has been brought to

the very verge of civil war, and but for the fact that some of our officials, such as Col. McDonald, were more human than either legal or military, bloodshed would have been inevitable. As we see it, the whole situation is ludicrous, and with a small measure of ordinary common sense in the proper place, the unfortunate clash between the civil and military authorities need not have occurred.

But the recent crisis demonstrated several important things, among which were the aversion of the Canadian people to military despotism, and the splendid integrity of the Alberta Supreme Court in standing firm for fundamental principles of British Justice. One of these principles is the right of Habeas Corpus, that right of personal liberty which has stood inviolate in Great Britain for four hundred years.

No one in Alberta will think for one minute that our judges had the slightest idea of embarrassing the military situation. On the contrary, it was their eagerness to help forward the necessary military program that constituted the test of their courage and true patriotism in opposing it; they felt the imperative duty of administering the justice of the law regardless of consequences; they refused to consider expediency as a substitute for justice. The cause of the disturbance was not attributable to the judges.

There has been much criticism of our laws and judicial decisions in recent years, but whatever justification there may have been for such

criticism, the integrity of the Alberta Supreme Court judges as shown in the recent crisis will cover a multitude of legal sins.

* * *

HIGHER WAGES VERSUS BANKRUPTCY.

The industrial struggle as seen in the clash between the

employers and employees of the railway companies at present in operation does not differ in any marked degree from any other industrial fight. When organized workers are pressed by the impinging economic environment, they are forced to seek relief, and the only visible means of aid in such a case available at this stage of industrial evolution is the strike for higher wages.

The employers in this case as in all others have, in their reports to the press, sought to leave the impression on the public mind that there is no need for the increase in wages demanded by the men, and prophecy bankruptcy for the railroads if the demands of the men are granted. Further, there is the suggestion that in times like these, men should be too patriotic to go on strike, but the natural reply to this is that if the C. P. R. will undertake to live on patriotism of the kind it wants other people to have, the workers will undertake to live on the railway profits. If patriotism be such a fattening meal, this suggested exchange should be favorably received by the railway companies.

It is utter nonsense for any committee to say that if proper wages are paid, that the companies involved will go bankrupt. Even if true, it is better for a profit-seeking company to go bankrupt than to bankrupt 60,000 workmen with their families. The industry which cannot pay a living wage to every person necessary to its continuance should go out of business, or else be taken over by the public (providing it is of real service) and run at the public expense.

Now, what is the real crux of this railway question? Is it not that the companies are in existence first for profit-making? We think this is the answer, and the only solution is conscription of all Canadian railroads during the period of the war at least. With the conscription of the roads, and the elimination of profit, the employees could be paid a living wage, and much better service could be given to the country. As long as companies are operating for profit, particularly in days when men have been conscripted to give their lives for their country, such companies should find no response to their lucre appeals from any public.

THE FOOD SITUATION

According to the reports of the Food Board at Ot-

tawa, the food question is one demanding serious attention. The comparative crop failure in the West will undoubtedly render the situation more acute, and calls for not only rigid economy with what we have, but extensive preparation for a great increase in our next year's crop.

The authorities so far have only taken steps to preserve, and cautioned economy. This is good so far as it goes, and must be obeyed by all, but what of the future? Will the Allies not need greater assistance next year, and would it not be an economic advantage as well as a duty for the government to launch a practical scheme for greater production in 1919.

When we think of our millions of acres of idle land, of the thousands of tractors standing idle waiting to be sold at a high figure, and thousands of men and women engaged in work of a non-essential character, we wonder if, after all, we are taking the right road to win the war. Every possible acre should be plowed this fall; provision should be made by the government for feeding the stock of farmers where the crop, and even the grass, has been a failure, and yet nothing is done. We are neglecting the most important factor in ultimate victory. Time is passing, winter will soon be here; there is no time to lose. We should start at once to produce on a large scale directed and supported wherever necessary by the government and accomplished in the spirit of national service.

* * *

GOVERNMENT'S OPPORTUNITY FOR NATIONAL SERVICE.

The food situation of the

Allies is serious, at least to the extent that conservation and increased production are imperative duties, both of governments and peoples. According to the estimate appearing in the Food Control Bulletin, 4,750,000 people in Europe have died of starvation since the outbreak of the war. This exceeds the death list on the actual fighting line.

The Government of Canada is urging conservation upon the people and properly so, but we would like to urge conservation upon the government seriously believing that the government could be of service itself if it would act upon the following suggestion.

We suggest that the government take over at once the cold-storage and packing plants of Canada. This

should be done in any case, but present conditions demand immediate action in this matter. Here are the conditions: Many Western farmers are faced with the prospect of starvation for their stock, being now forced to herd them in the foothills, and seek out low spots for grass. Meanwhile, cattle dealers are slow to buy, knowing that as winter approaches prices will be forced down, owing to lack of fodder, and the profits of the beef monopolist will be raised by as much as the farmers are lowered by this unusual condition.

Now, here is a great opportunity for the government to do real national and patriotic service. It is imperative that not even one steer or calf die of hunger if the food situation be as represented; and it is also of the utmost importance that private dealers be not allowed to exploit the farmer who already has lost his crop, and is threatened with loss of his stock. To prevent this and save every pound of flesh for our soldiers and allies, at the lowest possible figure, the government should conscript the packing plants and cold-storage houses, pay the farmers a reasonable figure for their stock, and oust the beef profiteer. Now, then, Government, we urge you to conserve, the situation is serious, millions have starved, and others may. Get the cold-storage business, and help the cause of the Allies.

* * *

NATIONALIZATION OF MONEY.

Money has been found an accommodating medium of exchange, and will continue to be used as long as it is serviceable in facilitating the necessary exchange of commodities. There is no assurance, however, of eternal life for money, although we might continue to use it for some time yet to advantage were the whole currency system under proper government control.

Money is or should be the expression of actual wealth. But it lends itself readily to manipulation, and has become the chief means by which those who produce the real wealth of the world are drained of the product of their toil by parasites.

There is no branch of our modern business, or of our public life more corrupt than the banking system. If the ordinary lay mind were permitted to see the whole inner workings of our system of currency, it would be so repugnant as to lose its attraction, even for the staunchest defenders of the status quo.

We believe that if banks have any right to exist, they should perform public service for the sake of service,

just as our post office does; that as a public necessity under the present commercial system no individual or corporation should have the power to control it for their own profit.

It is one of the aims of the Non-Partisan League to nationalize the currency system, thereby uprooting the most colossal medium of robbing extant. We propose to set this institution free to serve the people. Education and agitation on this question alone would justify the coming of the League.

* * *

A SIX-HOUR WORKING DAY

Lecturing in London, England Lord Leverhulme, of Sunlight Soap fame, made the startling assertion that it was an error to think that if the number of working hours were reduced for the workers that the country would go short of the necessities of life, for as a matter of practical experiment it had been found that a decrease in the number of working hours had resulted in greatest output.

One firm alone had found that women working a nominal 53 hour week lost on an average 14 hours per week, so that their actual working hours were only 39. In many cases owing to home demands a whole day off was frequently taken. Hours were then adjusted to enable them to meet the home calls, and reduced to a nominal 41 hours per week. It was then discovered that the average hours worked were 40, and at the same time the volume of work produced in 40 hours exceeded by 44½ per cent. that produced in 39 hours.

With increased output higher wages should be obtainable by the workers, with the natural corollary of increased purchasing power and a consequent growing demand and supply. Also attention to mechanical duties was extremely monotonous and to condemn a human being to attend to a machine from 6 or 7 in the morning to 5 or 5.30 in the afternoon deprived them of all opportunity for a broad outlook in life. This led to those who worked with hand and eye in factories being regarded as in some way inferior and different to the rest of humanity, and which misrepresented what was actually lack of opportunity.

Regarding the question of the use of leisure when obtained by the workers, the speaker referred to the necessity of recognizing the vital truth that the desire for betterment must be fostered in the individual, and he outlined and advocated an educational scheme which would include physical training, culture of university type and instruction in the duties and responsibilities of citizenship,

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WHY TWO PARTIES?

Ottawa, July 13th, 1918



It is highly doubtful if from the point of view of real political progress a revival of the old national bi-partisan system is desirable. The national parties were only held together by secret compromises within their own ranks, and it would be infinitely better if the compromises which may be necessary sometimes for the Government of a scattered community like Canada were made in public. Every national political organization is of necessity conservative at heart. Its members are beneficiaries of an existing order. It can no more become a loyal servant of a radical, political and economic program than a governmental machine can be expected to devise its own destruction. On either side it must be always largely composed of professional politicians, a class of people to whom it has always been a matter of small importance who makes laws, and what laws are made, so long as they are administered by trusty party men.

Such hopeful persons as looked forward to transfigured Unionist or Liberal parties are too optimistic. Neither party can become really progressive by express and avowed conviction just as neither can dare to be rapidly conservative in the existing temper of the times. The business of either political party is to make the convictions of other people the means of getting and keeping the control of Government. They are governed by a desire for power and not by ideas as to the best method for using it. In short, the old parties in Canada will be radical or conservative only as far as radicalism or conservatism is fashionable. The Canadian politician of either party never really fights, except to get himself into office or to keep himself there.

Attempts in the past to form independent groups have failed after promising beginnings, and they have failed because the vast majority of the Canadian people cling to their illusions and followed such will-o'-the-wisps as the political leaders set before them. The labor movement in Canada has too often placed power in the hands of an objectionable type of labor politician whose business it was to make deals with the party organizations. There have been farmers revolts, but, when the crisis came, and they looked dangerous, their leaders were too often bought up with governmental jobs of some kinds. During the last Parliament, it was distinctly noticeable that Mr. Henders and other Western champions of the farmers' cause were able to discover many unexpected virtues in the Ottawa regime. To-day, the farmers are expanding and increasing their organization and talk of forming a national agrarian party. The fact is that they are gradually realizing that to secure their ends they must definitely embark in politics. The membership of the United Farmers of Ontario is increasing and has received a great impetus from the recent quarrel with the Government over the cancellation of exemptions. Progress is also being made with the organization of the farmers in Quebec and New Brunswick. In fact, the United farmers of New Brunswick already exist with twelve hundred members.

The labor movement, which has long been split up into a multitude of factions, has now healed some of its worst schisms and has embarked on the plan of forming a national labor party. There is before us the prospect of the arrival of two definitely radical groups in English-speaking Canada. In addition to this there is the vast body of the returning army. The soldier is particularly suspicious of the old organizations. It happens that he has had time to think as never before, and has come in contact with the views of progressive minds in other countries, and, as a result, he is inclined to look with grave distrust upon the deceptions and hypocrisies of the old party organizations. It may be in time that the Great War Veterans' Association will form a separate party of their own and nominate candidates but it is more likely that the mass of them if well-led labor and agrarian parties arise, will attach themselves to the former in the cities and the latter in the country. In that event, both the labor and agrarian groups would be in a position to command great political power in future parliaments, and their combination, especially if the Quebec group pursued a friendly neutrality, would make the continuance of the existing capitalist regime in Canada impossible. Any plan on the part of either the farmers, labor or the veterans to reform the Unionist, Liberal or Conservative parties from within by alliance will never do. Its only result would be not the reformation of the parties, but the corruption of the reforming elements.

However, the conditions are peculiarly favorable to the final disintegration of the bi-partisan system. It happens that in Canada there exists to-day as never before since the establishment of the two party system a large number of other electors outside the groups above referred to who have either broken off all party ties, or at least have lost all illusions in regard to party politics. They have no admiration for existing political parties, but they feel the need and know the value of permanent political associations, and the advisability of a definite political alliance. As long as they maintain unattached independence, they will have to leave initiative legislation to people who are not radicals and be content with criticising opposing or amending. Mere independence is condemned to sterility. As long as the two party system is allowed to flourish, the position of those voters who have no particular class consciousness, but are sincere progressives is very difficult. Any hope for them of attaining an effective medium of political action depends on the passing of the existing bi-partisan ascendancy in favor of minority groups powerful enough to undermine the specious partisan nationalism of the existing bodies. The one great merit of Union Government was that it did a great deal in the way of undermining the old system, and the next step in Canadian political development should be the rise of independent labor and agrarian organizations who will agitate and vote for a definite class program. It is imperatively necessary also that independent progressives and intellectuals should throw their whole weight and support on the side of these minority parties. They will provide centres of activity for Canadians who want democratic policies to be something more than a barren struggle for office between cliques and individuals. But they cannot attain power and success unless there is sincere enthusiasm, keen intelligence and

energetic work devoted to their organization and the propagation of their views. Given this enthusiasm and intelligence, such minority parties are certainly destined to become both powerful and effective. They are not only an absolute necessity to expose the inaptitude and futility of the two party system, and destroy its force in our national life, but they are absolutely indispensable if the positive social and economic policies which will be included in the difficult years of reconstruction to come, are to be carried out and if Canada is to recover her stable prosperity and secure decent Government.

—BYSTANDER.

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Agents Wanted

The Non-Partisan Movement



J. H. FORD, of Calgary
who is relinquishing Secretarial duties
of the League

A CHANGE IN SECRETARYSHIP To Our Members:--

Dear Friends,—On May 7th last I wrote your Executive, suggesting it would now be desirable to appoint someone as Secretary who would be capable of doing propaganda work in the country as well, and asking that the matter be considered at their next meeting.

During the past year, the duties and responsibilities of the position have been in no way light, and the building up of the organization has demanded close and constant attention at all times, and on occasions anxiety has been experienced in pulling it safely through. The work has been grappled with to the best of my ability, and the funds have been handled as carefully as possible, always keeping in view the making of a permanent organization. As we now have efficient help in the office, the suggestion was made entirely in the interests of the movement to which I could remain just as devoted and be able to still render good service in the building up of "The Alberta Non-Partisan" into a stronger publication.

The executive at first did not favor any change, and the question was allowed to stand over for a time. Meanwhile, a look-out was kept for a suitable successor to whom the future of the League could be safely entrusted. Towards the end of June a friend was able to place us in touch with one who is peculiarly fitted to carry on the organization work of the League successfully. Correspondence was entered into after consultation with our chairman, with the result that Mr. J. S. Woodsworth, late director of the Social Research Bureau for the Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta Governments, will arrive in Calgary this week, having accepted the position of secretary to the League.

Mr. Woodsworth is a thorough democrat, and is one who has the mind and vision of a statesman, and this organization is fortunate in having secured his services. For two years he was professor

of Social Service in Manitoba and Wesley Colleges, and judging from the appreciation of the students, there was no more useful subject in the curriculum than that taught by Mr. Woodsworth, many having gained from his tuition their first vision of a greater opportunity for service to humanity.

Most of our readers have been acquainted with Mr. Woodsworth through his able articles in the Grain Growers' Guide on "Citizenship," which resulted in an outline course of study on rural citizenship being taken up by farmers' organizations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. His work among the foreign element of our population, and also as an author is well known, and his book, "The Stranger within Our Gates," is full of information received at first hand during the years of his strenuous work among our immigrants in Winnipeg.

Such is the acquisition to our movement in Alberta. I will still continue to contribute my best to the cause. The work of looking after our paper, with its growing circulation—now over ten thousand every issue—and its message of hope in the cause of human betterment will keep me actively in touch with the organization with which I have been connected since its inception in Alberta.

We have reached a most important stage in the development of our movement, and there is a decided unrest and a smothered undercurrent of thought running amongst our people. At such times, we need to be doing all that we can to guide and influence public opinion in the direction which we think will bring good to the greatest numbers. A man of ability and gifted in expression will be of inestimable value at the present time to a movement which is the most promising political development of our times.

Our two members in the Legislature, Mrs. L. C. McKinney and Jas. Weir, have already shown the value of independence in politics, and are both valuable assets. The record of their first session given in the columns of our paper was received with much approval by our readers. This has been an innovation in Alberta politics. The League is also further indebted to them for their ready willingness in attending meetings in all parts of the Province, and for the assistance given in directing its policy on many important public questions.

In my association with each member of our executive committee, I will always remember with gladness their constant and unshakable faith in the ultimate success of this great idea of independent thought and action in our provincial and national affairs. There are now hundreds of clear-thinking farmers who see plainly with them, and who are doing their best to further the cause in every possible way. To confront combined interests with combination will take much time and patience, persistence and skill. But it can be done. Every member and friend of our cause should be an agent working for the extension of its propaganda. In no other way can greater good be done, and this is the time when the clarion call to service is heard by all, and must be preached by everyone whether he be an orator or only an humble toiler in a lone and distant field.

I am to-day enjoying the friendship of many a stalwart whom I never knew a year ago. Long may our friendship continue and success be speedily attained.

Sincerely yours,

J. H. FORD.



JOHN GLAMBECK, of Milo, Alta.
Secretary of Queenstown U.F.A. and
writer of many trenchant articles
on Farmer's Problems.

WANTED—A NEW POLITICAL AL- LIANCE.

A Plea for the Solidarity and Union of
Farmers and Working Class.

By John Glambeck, Milo, Alta.

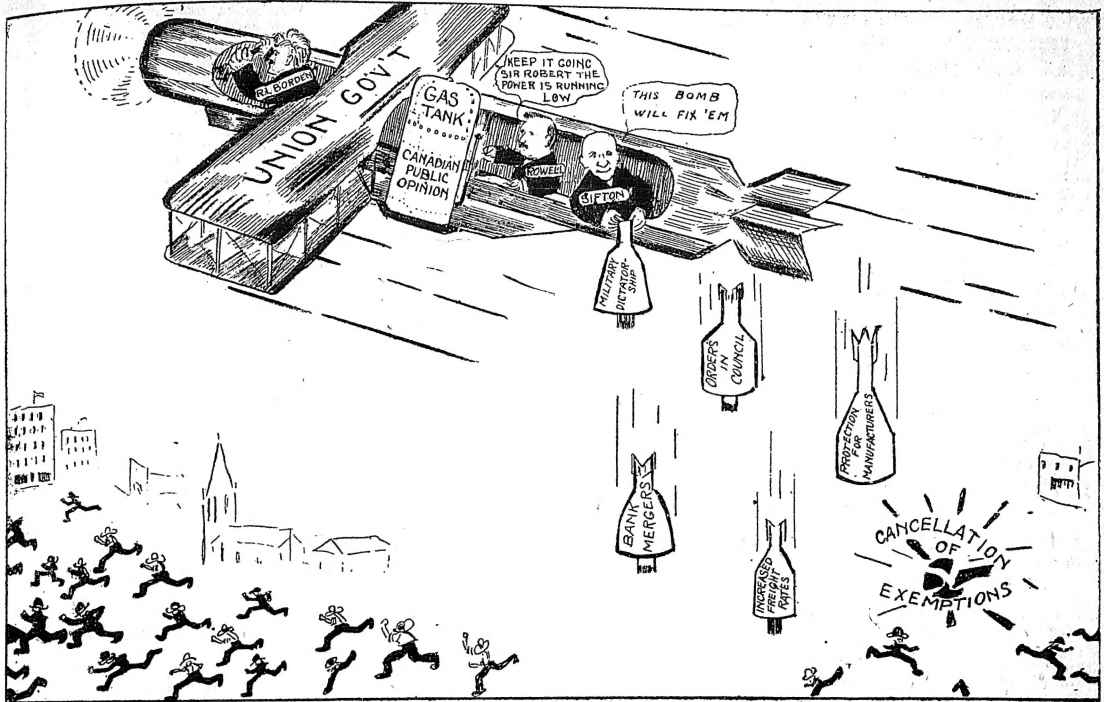
The letter written by G. R. Orchard, published in the Non-Partisan of June 21st, appealing to the farmers and organized labor to get together in a political party and elect their own representatives, strikes the nail on the head. In my opinion, it is a step in the right direction, and the only way we can win. It is true enough that we farmers, as a class, have troubles of our own, and so have the laboring class, but that need not hinder us from pulling together, for after all organized capital in its various forms is the common enemy, and is one of the forces that exploit and oppress both the farmers and the working class.

The Alberta farmers have a splendid organization in the U. F. A., and it is no use denying that it has done lots of good for the farmers in general. By being recognized as a force in this province we have got a few small concessions from the "powers that be," and as an organization we have remedied some bad abuses. In a co-operative way, the U. F. A. has saved its members many a dollar, and I, for one, wish to see this organization grow and prosper until every farmer becomes a member.

But splendid as the U. F. A. is, it does not cover the whole field. When we have put our money together, and cut out the middle man, we still have the C.P.R. and other railways to deal with. We have the Manufacturers' Association and various other big capitalistic concerns who handle what we have to buy, and also what we have to sell, and as these combines practically control the government, we, the farmers and industrial workers, are completely at their mercy.

Now, there is but one way out of this, and that is for us to get control of the government. Numerous as we farmers are, especially in the west, we are not numerous enough to accomplish this by ourselves. The question arises, where will we get our

LEGISLATIVE RAIDS IN CANADA!



allies? We can't very well join hands with the railway corporations, the manufacturers, or the various other combinations whose interest lies in farming the farmers and exploiting the workers. There is but one class of people the farmers can join hands with, and that is the working class.

The farmers and other useful workers are the most vital forces in society, and upon them largely depends the progress of the world. The bankers, financiers, lawyers, speculators and all other non-productive gentlemen may be of some use, but in a pinch we could get along without them. We can't very well get along without the farmers and workers.

Of course, I know that some farmers, who may have done well during the past couple of years and got out of debt and now sport an auto, don't like to be classed with their hired man. I have also met quite a few farmers who look upon the hired man as one of the greatest evils they have to contend with. He is lazy, will not work when he gets a few dollars ahead, and is generally a nuisance. All this may be true in individual cases, but there are exceptions. All farmers are not angels either, and I have known some very mean scamps among the farmers. But the rank and file of farmers and working men are all right, and both have to work hard and suffer the same injustices at the hands of powerful interests.

While this war is raging, we cannot expect to do great things as everybody's mind is concentrated on the successful finish of it, but when the war has been won, when the world has been made safe for democracy, and the rights of small nations are firmly established, then we have a few things to settle with the Huns right at home. I hate to believe that the thousands

of young men from the farms and workshops, who have enlisted or been forced into fighting, will return and again submit peaceably to the exploitation and injustices the monied aristocracy are meting out to them.

In the meantime, we should begin to lay out our plans and be prepared for the outbreak of peace. When the war started, it was demonstrated that the nation which was best prepared had all the advantage. So let us take that as our lesson. First, we must understand just where we belong in politics. We must understand that the existing political parties are composed of the very elements that are exploiting us. We must understand that it is hopeless to expect any relief through parties dominated by the railway corporations, bankers, manufacturers, etc., We must decide to have our own independent party, and if we invite the workers to help us to form that party on a platform that will appeal to them as well as to us, we are bound to win.

Too long have we been misrepresented in the provincial and Dominion parliaments by men who did not belong to our class, and had no sympathy for or knowledge of our problems. We have paid dearly for our ignorance and neglect in this direction. When we get a majority of our class in the government, then and only then can we hope to see the abuses remedied that we are suffering under. I ask every farmer who reads this, and who agrees with me, to come to the front and say so, and I challenge anyone to prove that I am wrong. The man who would be free himself must strike the first blow.

—JOHN GLAMBECK.

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WHAT WINNIPEG HAS TO SUFFER.

Major Andrew's frank admission that he was compelled to vote for order-in-council after order-in-council of which he knew nothing seems either exaggerating the strength of the Canadian party system, or that somebody has been pulling the wool over his eyes. Suppose he had voted against the Union Government on a measure which he could not approve, what force could have made him resign?

In these grave times, surely there is liberty to exercise a little independence and calm thought on the public questions which come up for decision. Otherwise, people might just as well send mere boys to Ottawa and not waste the time of mature men in acting as rubber stamps and as subservient voting machines for the cabinet. The best judgment of any member should be used on big, serious questions of national import, and there is no high treason in voting against your leaders when your common sense tells you that what your leaders propose is wrong.

If you don't, Major Andrews, then your election for Centre Winnipeg was a mistake as huge as your majority. True enough you were sent by the people on the Union platform, but that doesn't mean that you were expected to accept, without question, every mortal thing devised in cabinet council. If such is the case, then government in Canada is a farce indeed, and nothing could be more autocratic than what we already have. —The Winnipeg Voice!

* * *

READ--The Consolidated School Question by S. Stevenson, on page 12.

* * *

Don't miss pages 13 and 14.

The Non-Partisan Letter Box

WHY FARMERS SHOULD SUPPORT THE ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN

Editor, Alberta Non-Partisan:

Dear Sir,—The excuse a great many farmers will give when you ask them to join an independent party is "We have got the U. F. A." but I must say, politically, the U. F. A. has been a complete failure, and instead of its being a great power in molding and controlling legislation, the politicians have been controlling it. Ever since we have been organized, we have been asking for cheap money, nationalization of the railroads and free trade, and it cannot be said that on these lines we have made any advancement. Remember, if this legislation was put into operation, it would put millions of dollars into the pockets of the people. This money now goes to the big interests, and we claim that the Guide as an independent paper has fallen down on the farmer's platform by refusing to publish letters on the live issues of the day that other papers have published.

Now, farmers, what we want is an independent paper. Remember, politics is the business of all the people. If we want to break the chains that bind us as slaves to the trusts, combines, and mergers, and secure the full products of our toil, we must have a live, vigorous and independent political paper. Your subscription would not pay for the paper it is written on. It must have some other sources of revenue. Advertisements, which it cannot get unless it has quite a large circulation, and an independent paper will not get those whose interests they have to fight against unless they feel they will lose trade by not advertising in it. So it is not the dollars you give for the paper, so much as the earning power it gives it. Now, farmers think this over and think hard. Subscribe for this paper, and try and get the merchants you do business with to advertise in its columns. Purchase your supplies from the merchants who patronize your paper. Now to point out to you the difficulty of running an independent paper, I will quote what happened to an editor in a town between Edmonton and Calgary about thirteen years ago. They had a farmers' union there, and an independent candidate was put in the field. There had been a number of articles published reflecting upon the candidate. A farmer was asked by the union to write a letter for the paper in his defence. He agreed to do so, if they would get it published as he wrote it. The letter was written, endorsed by the union, and published in the paper. It showed up the merits of the independent platform, cheap money, nationalization of the railroads, etc., and exposed the governments' policy and belittled their candidate and extolled the character of the independent. The paper was only out a few hours when some of the supporters of the Government visited the editor's office and threatened him if he published any more such letters in his paper they would take their advertising out of it, and the government would also withdraw theirs. The editor published the interview in his paper, stating they had made good part of their threats, but remember before the election, that paper was supporting the government candidate. I do not think any further argument is necessary to show you the necessity of an independent paper.

Now, Mr. Editor, I do not pretend to be a newspaper man, but will give one or two suggestions that to my mind would make the paper more attractive and possibly more widely read. For instance, if the

first page had an index of the contents of each issue, the pages where the different articles for sale were advertised, also show the want ads., etc., articles on different subjects, authors, etc., so when a person took up a paper he would tell at a glance what was in it. Some people take a number of papers and are very busy. Time is money. I only give these as my views.

Yours truly,

W. R. BALL.

HOW TO CREATE I.W.W.-ISM

Editor, NON-PARTISAN.

Dear Sir:—A Calgary evening paper recently published a somewhat lengthy communication from an individual resident at Drumheller who claims that the miners of that camp were permeated with I.W.W.-ism and ready for immediate revolt. The correspondent also hinted (very, very plainly) that unless the authorities could introduce or import a Kaiser Bill, or resurrect the redoubtable Von Hindenberg (whom press association agents recently interred) we had better immediately prepare for a revolution and its consequences.

Now, Mr. Editor let me state in plain English, that I am not an I.W.W., neither am I tainted with their philosophy which I must regard as being destructionist. To be candid, I.W.W.-ism savors too strongly of mob Prussianism—the direct autocratic action of the mob run wild. Neither can I claim to be one of those individuals who imagine we can conduct a war against the greatest autocracy and military power known to history with what some are pleased to term "Humane and democratic methods." Such thought is the result of a distorted vision, created by several generations of alleged democracy, that has led the British people to become the greatest sentimentalists of any age. No! It must be most positively understood: Democracy, that is real democracy, is the pure autocracy of the people. In other words, were it possible to introduce a complete and absolute democracy it would strike most of us to-day as being the greatest autocracy imaginable, such is the present mental make-up of the average Britisher.

The foregoing by way of introduction, I would ask space to relate the following incident which happened recently in the coal-mining camp of Coalhurst.

Five or six autos chased into this peaceful town the other night and discovered some twelve miners who had worked on the previous morning shift indulging in a little recreation. They were doing exactly what our soldier boys delight in doing during periods of rest. Some were sitting on their door-steps, some on their own picket fence, in fact they were acting just like healthy human beings who had done one day's toil and were waiting for the next.

The imported Lethbridge police immediately grabbed every man in sight and demanded their papers. The men, being minus their coats, asked permission to secure their papers from their homes, but this was met with a polite persuasion of a gun in their ribs and—"Get into that auto"—and the men got in—some twelve of them.

Now, there was a Justice of the Peace in Coalhurst and these men could have been immediately tried in the village. Such however, does not seem to be the method of the Provincial police of this part. So they joy-rode them to Lethbridge; brought them before a Justice of the Peace, gave

them no opportunity to secure legal advice, fined them \$10 apiece and costs.

Some people might foolishly imagine such methods savored of the Prussian. They do not. With all his brutality, I have never heard it claimed that the Prussian possessed of a gun indulged in the unnecessary formality of joy-riding in his victim at the state's expense. Such methods he would regard as purely asinine and extravagant. If the Provincial authorities wish to collect \$10 and costs of every miner who dare engage in recreation, why not instruct the police to do it on the spot and save the expenditure of gasoline?

Now, the above has a sequel, and it is a tribute to the intelligence of the people of Coalhurst. A public meeting was subsequently held; the true facts of the case were placed before the gathering and they decided upon the most expedient method of reimbursing the men who had been fined—namely, to hold out of the Patriotic funds the full amount of fines and costs.

It is of course regrettable that patriotic funds should suffer as a result of such gross stupidity on the part of the police, and it is earnestly to be hoped that the assurance, which we understand has been given by the authorities, will be respected—namely, that the miners in the various camps will not be subject to further interference by officious policemen.

—LASCELLES.

BURNING QUESTIONS?

Manville, Alta.

The Editor, ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN:—

There is a question in connection with the Food Board which has been giving me some thought of late. Are the members of the board practising the economy they preach? Then why do they require such large salaries?

To working folk who have to raise a large family on less than one thousand per annum, hints on economy from such well-fed sources have only the effect of rousing resentful feelings. Should not our leaders be examples to the people? The daily press fairly teems with Sir this or Sir that always seated at some banquet table advising plans whereby the working folk will eat less. The Good Book says that man shall earn his bread, not by wearing out the seat of his trousers, but by the sweat of his brow. Things seem to have got twisted round these days. The prices of life's necessities prohibit any waste at the working-man's table—I wish we were as sure the rich had no luxuries at their tables. Why all the distress over the poor man? We should begin to save our food for the people who are workers and producers. Those busy little folk, the bees, will allow no drones in their hive even when there is plenty in the land. If food is so scarce as insisted why not take a lesson from them?

Then again our laws by Order-in-Council make the fact distressingly clear that autocracy does not need German soil to thrive on. For a misunderstanding of one of the contradictory, un-understandable, multitudinous Orders-in-Council, illegal as they are, poor men are fined and imprisoned. We are deceived on all sides and the wicked do still more wickedly and flourish awhile. The effect is to show the people that the politicians are their worst enemies. How long will the working people feed and tolerate them? And be dictated to by them?

If some explanation can be given through your clear, clean, democratic little paper, which I get much profitable pleasure from reading fortnightly, I would indeed be grateful.

—ALBERTA CUNDALL.

HOW WE DEAL WITH OUR CONCHIES

A Visit to a Prison Farm.

My English friends are perturbed in the lenient manner in which the Conchy camps in the old country are conducted. These depraved creatures, instead of being thrown into the deepest dungeon of the darksome tower, and shackled together, as they ought to be, are allowed perfect freedom within bounds and their friends are permitted to send them literature and dainties. I can, however, assure the readers of this paper that this is not the way we do things in Canada. A few weeks ago I received a scribble from a Conchy friend in prison. It was written on a scrap of paper between the lines of an old letter. It had been got out by a visitor, and it requested me to pay him a visit if I should be in the city in which the prison is situated on a Sunday afternoon, between 2 and 4.

Nobody got out of the car but an old Italian woman and myself. She said she also was on her way to the prison farm, and would show me the road. But she was not communicative as to her errand, except that "dis world was full of trouble ah, yes, trouble all the time." Arrived at the prison door, a severe warder ordered me to write my name and address in a book and conducted me into a stony-looking hall down the centre of which were two rows of benches about two yards apart, and with two green cords separating the prisoners (all men) on one bench and their visitors on the other.

"I guess you'll find room in there!" said my warder, pointing to a space between two women gesticulating and gabbling in tongues unknown to me across to their friends on the other side. I awaited my friend's appearance, somewhat dazed. It reminded me more of the game of "Clumps" that we used to play at parties where two people go out of the room and think of something and on their return everyone begins to yell out questions to them. My friend presently appeared in reception costume—close-shaved hair, overalls and faded blue shirt, and the most primitive thing in boots I have ever seen, the kind of boots a shoemaker might turn out if he had no tool but an axe.

As I had been told we would only have ten minutes to talk, I couldn't settle to my part in the grand chorus until I had got rid of an oblong packet that had been hitting against my stocking all the way to the prison. Every time I looked at the fiercer-looking of the two warders, he seemed to have no eyes save for me, but possibly that was just my guilty conscience. However, my friend said, "Wait till he looks the other way; the one in black won't notice anything." So the sleight-of-hand trick was effected. The tobacco went inside the blue striped shirt, and a letter was handed over to me to mail. Prisoners are only allowed to write two letters a month, and these, besides incoming mail, are read by the prison authorities, and if considered unsuitable are presumably destroyed; for one I had written some months before and which had contained a few remarks concerning the war, etc., had never been received. Also nothing may be sent the prisoners in the way of food, tobacco, etc., and only such literature as the authorities consider suitable. My friend told me that the food was extremely bad, and that there was such a preponderance of rice and other starchy food that he suffered almost continually from indigestion and acidity.

I should say that there were only two conchies in this prison; the other prisoners were the usual burglars, thieves, brawlers, and so on, a great many of them being the lowest class of foreigners. No difference whatsoever is made between them, and the two political prisoners, as I suppose one may call them. All, of course, have solitary cells, and all work on the prison farm. "Our only bit of comfort when we go to our bunks at night" said my friend, "is the bit of tobacco that some friend has managed to get in to us."

The warder extended the time most graciously. Possibly he thought, from my dress, which was the nicest I own, and my address, which was eminently respectable (neither of them looking capable of smuggled tobacco), that I was exhorting the poor man to a better life.

I should say that my friend's crime consisted of refusing to register (at the time of the first registration) and of inciting others to follow his example.

One cannot help comparing the manner in which we treat interned aliens with our treatment of a Britisher who has the strength of mind to stick to his principles. A former guard of one of the internment camps tells me that the inmates are quite free within boundaries. Their friends may come in food, etc., and the well-to-do-ones may have any extra dainties they choose to order sent in from the town in addition to the food provided by the government. None of them have to do any work. The wealthier ones play tennis all day, and have dances in the evening. The others have baseball and punch-ball, etc., and the Y.M.C.A. provides concerts and entertainments for them.

I should say that the prison I visited was not in the vicinity of Calgary.

—CONTRARY MARY.

* * *

STATE INSURANCE

Queensland's State Government Insurance Office has issued its first report. The first year's transactions have been so satisfactory that, after carrying \$225,000 to a reserve fund, and writing off all preliminary expenses, it has been found possible to allocate a sum exceeding \$85,000 for the payment of a bonus of ten per cent. on policies in the Worker's Compensation Department.

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The Consolidated School Question

By S. Stevenson, Craigmyle, Alta.

Some time ago we had a vote here on the consolidation of several outlying schools to form a village consolidated school. This was turned down by the rural districts, as it had been on a vote some eight or nine months previously. The vote in the village was overwhelmingly in favor. The Department also lent its aid to them.

The question with us is largely that of the retention of the rural school, carrying children long distances in all kinds of weather and roads to school, van routes, long hours, and to some extent the expense, also, whether the farmer shall sacrifice the interests of himself and the health, comfort and chances of his child to that of the villager? I must confess I see no good reason for it.

We are unwilling to abandon the rural school. We want to retain it as a social and educational centre. The problem of keeping our young people on the land is to-day one of the big problems and for that reason if no other we need the rural school and rural education more than ever. I will quote, Miss Carney, a recognized authority in both the U.S. and Canada on this very point:—

"The idea that rural welfare is significant and desirable only because of its contribution to urban prosperity demands thorough condemnation. Farm life must become adequate for its own sake, and the sake of those who live it. The problem of keeping the youth of the present generation upon the farms and preparing them for country life—is an issue of fundamental concern in our National welfare." She strongly advises the retention, improvement and further use of the Country School.

Advocates of consolidated schools make frequent mention of the United States which have more than ten times the population per square mile than we have, besides in many cases interurban railways and generally much better roads, while our roads are at times impassable. It is worthy of careful note too that their consolidated schools average less in area than our common rural school. This means that apart from a milder climate and the other better conditions named, their van or transportation problem would not equal ours if we applied the van system to the getting of our children to our present rural schools,—a thing I am not opposed to if it is better than the present system, provided, however, that the van goes to every child's door—if considered necessary,—and not one-tenth that of the problem of where the children were to be conveyed to a village school such as was proposed, where four or five schools were to be swallowed up in one.

With such large school districts, long cold drives in the winter, early, late and long hours on the road and travel in most cases considerable distances to meet the vans and there wait in the cold until they come along, is unavoidable. These are a necessary and calculated part of the scheme and cannot be avoided besides the big expense.

But we are told that to oppose consolidated schools is to oppose better education. I don't think so. There is nothing to prevent the villagers having an Academy or High School in their midst if they will get down into their pockets as the farmer has already done. I could point to places where they have done it and have good schools. Then why try to deprive the farmer miles from town it may be, of his

little local centre by mere weight of numbers?

I realize that our rural schools are not all they should be, but we want to keep them, enlarge them, add to the staff, spend whatever money is necessary on them, and make the widest possible use of them. This, to my mind, will be cheaper and infinitely more satisfactory, than any Village consolidation yet proposed.

I will summarize briefly the experience of Saskatchewan with consolidated schools as revealed in a special report published last year: "Of a total of seventeen consolidated schools two had been abandoned, leaving fifteen. Nearly all the schools reporting complain of the vans, van-drivers and cost of same. Some of the long drives also the long hours. There is trouble always with regard to the conveyance of the pupils. Then it is almost impossible to get competent van-drivers, even though the pay is far in excess of what it should be. The pupils picked up first in the morning are delivered last at night, making too long a day. The cost of operation cannot be compared with smaller districts, being so much greater, and children experiencing more or less hardship due to the intense cold although foot warmers and heavy robes are provided. Consolidation does not prove to be a success. Most of the ratepayers would prefer the old way."

When labor was cheaper than now Coupar S.D. reports the cost per pupil as \$118.21 exclusive of debenture liability.

Inspector Duff of Regina, says:—"The difficulties are very great. Consolidation has been extremely successful in many cases in the United States but the conditions are entirely different. In consolidated districts in Indiana it appears they have from four to seven pupils per square mile.

Inspector Cram, Swift Current, says:—"I am doubtful of consolidation as a general system in this Province." Inspector Everts of Kindersley expresses doubt, and says:—"Consolidation should not proceed on local initiative." The Minister of Education in summing up in part refers to the difference in conditions existing between the United States and Canada, and says:—"It would be well for all trustees and ratepayers thinking of consolidation in Saskatchewan to consider carefully the different conditions which exist in this Province from those existing in places where consolidation is general, and give earnest attention to the experiences of the officials of districts where conveyance is being provided for children resident within a district of about 50 square miles."

These then are some of the reasons why we voted as we did, and believe they may be worthy of consideration by those having as we did the question thrust upon us unprepared.

—S. STEVENSON.

* * *

The man who will not investigate both sides of a question is dishonest.—Lincoln.

* * *

TO CONSCRIPT WOMEN.

Sir Wm. Bull, M.P. for Hammersmith, London, Eng., is preparing a Bill to conscript women from 18 to 31. It is significant to note that these women are the very ones not allowed a vote.

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LIFE AND WORK

EDUCATION AND THE NEW SOCIAL ORDER.

Article VI.

Assuming that education is the most important factor in human progress, and that as such the proper training of children in our schools is imperative, the next question is how to get the proper training in the schools?

When public schools were first proposed, the rich few who had a monopoly of learning feared the education of the masses and fought the establishment of schools, but ultimately permitted public schools on the conditions that they—the autocratic, the rich, and their servants be entrusted with the writing of or the selection of the text books. The class in power were quick to see that the public school might become the most effective instrument possible for the retaining of power, and by writing text books, and preparing the curriculae, the over-lords, through their servants, the governments, were able to mould the public mind to suit their own purpose.

The same condition prevails today. The educational departments of our provincial and federal parliaments supervised by a Minister of Education, attend to the mental food of Canadian children, and prescribe the kind of food to be used in every school. Nothing contrary to capitalistic notions would be permitted; the whole atmosphere of modern educational institutions is such as is conducive to the maintainance of the status quo.

The effectiveness of the public schools and universities in the moulding of public opinion is the chief reason why these institutions should be made the instruments of democracy. But here, again, we are faced with the question of how the public school may be made the nursery of democratic thought.

Some people think it can be done through the teachers—a sort of on-the-side affair—so to speak. Others think that we should obtain a democratic minister of education, etc., etc. To the former suggestion we may say that few teachers would have the courage to contradict the text books, and if they did, they would be looked upon as peculiar, and even the children, like adults, give more evidence to that which they see in print, than to any oral advice. The limited efforts of an individual teacher would be hopeless in the face of the whole design and trend of a public school tuition. The second proposal

idea, namely, to secure a democratic minister of education is ludicrous. Every minister of education must approach the fold in the prescribed way, and with the prescribed qualifications. If he comes by any other way, he would be called a "thief and a robber" metaphorically speaking; if he was a confessed democrat, he would never secure the appointment. There is, therefore, no hope of introducing democratic education into institutions held by autocracy. These institutions must be captured by an uprising of public opinion from without.

It was not the educationalists who gave us public schools; on the contrary, it was the general public who sought the reform and secured it over the heads of the autocratic educationalists. In like manner, the educational system and curriculae can only be changed by an urgent organized demand by a democratic public.

This means that without political power the democratization of institutions is impossible. The public school is to-day, just as the commercial and political institutions are—serving the interests of the few who own and govern. When autocracy is overthrown, and democracy comes to power, these institutions will serve the people, but not before.

We must, therefore, educate the man and woman with the right to vote before we can reach the educational system which virtually teaches the masses that it is to their interest to vote against their interest. We must, then, as individuals, agitate, and spread the idea of democratic organization as the only means of securing political authority, and thereby obtain the control of every serviceable institution for human collective well-being.

It is the full realization of these conditions and possibilities that underlies every political faction outside of the old line parties. The latter are the bulwark of the present order, and must give way before the democracy we are fighting for can possibly be established.

But old methods will not give way until there are new ones to replace the old. It is the business of the Non-Partisan League in conjunction with the Labor party of Canada to build up a democratic structure, politically, that will supercede the present. This is the task immediately before us, and none of our dreams of justice, or of democracy in any department can come to pass until we are organized sufficiently

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to be effective in demanding the necessary changes.

When the common people, through education and organization, secure power, the whole social structure will gradually be moulded according to democratic principles. Industry, commerce, and education alike will readily conform to the new spirit of social service. But to talk of this is futile until we have the power to accomplish them. The first thing to do is to line up on the side of democracy.

THE RELATION OF THE LEAGUE TO
THE U. F. A.

The propaganda work of the League continues, and is meeting with considerable success. Marked interest is shown wherever our speakers are heard proclaiming the message of the fast approaching new social order. No teaching can be successfully propagated until interest has been aroused to a degree sufficient to claim attention. The N. P. L. is at this stage now. People are interested, and success is only a matter of time and continued effort.

Mr. W. Irvine, who has been doing educational work for the League since its inception in Alberta, spoke to 1,500 people on July 1st at Rainbow, near Youngstown. The occasion was that of the U. F. A. Annual Picnic, and afforded the speaker a splendid opportunity to show the proper relation between the U. F. A. as an industrial movement, and that of the N.P.L. as a political organization.

It was clearly shown by the speaker that the farmers' industrial organization had grown out of economic necessity; that it was the extension of the industrial problem which took its rise at the dawn of the industrial revolution; and that as such it was always the pre-cursor of political organization. All industrial organizations begin under similar conditions, and have similar aims whether composed of agrarians or tradesmen, and all begin by swearing eternal enmity to politics. But very soon, when the spirit of co-operation develops, and when the education which necessarily follows industrial union comes, the political field becomes as great a necessity as the industrial. This has been the history of every country in the world.

The reason why political action follows industrial organization is not far to seek. Men very soon discover that an increase of wages, or an increase of the price of wheat does not solve the problem, and that without political action the problem never can be solved. From this the old parties are played with, and played with in vain. The old-time political parties

are the expression of monopoly, manipulation and parasitic autocracy; they were not created to serve the people, but to serve the masters. Naturally, then, the need for a political endeavor which shall be the expression of democratic aims, and which will afford the means of adjustment of the economic wrongs which under our troubles is seen to be imperative. Whether owned or disowned, the N. P. L. is the child of the U. F. A., for without the education made possible by that movement, the League would have been impossible.

The large audience listened attentively to the address, and many expressed their belief in the urgent necessity for political as well as industrial action.

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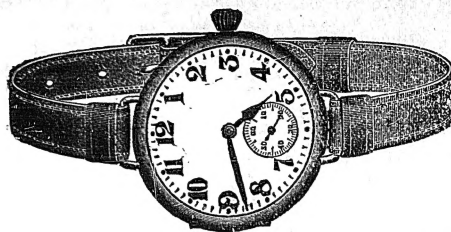
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